flowers and ornamental plants, tubers and bulbs, cuttings, saplings, budwoods etc. of flowers will be allowed on OGL by the identified categories only.

(b) A copy of the New Policy on Seed Development is attached. [*See Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No.* 16]. The reasons for allowing the imports are:

(i) to provide access to the Indian farmers to the best quality seeds available anywhere in the world, in order to maximise crop yields, and raise his farm-income;

(ii) to attain sustainable growth in agriculture through continuous upgradation of the genetic potential of various crops; and

(iii) to meet the country's immediate need for valuable foreign exchange through export of agricultural produce raised from the best quality seeds;

(c) Under the New Seed Policy, the plant quarantine requirements will be strictly enforced in order to ensure that no new exotic pathogenes like the insects, pests, nematodes weeds etc. which may prove to be harmful to the Indian agriculture are introduced along with the imported seed/planting material. The Plant Quaratine Organisation is being strengthened through requisite staff equipment and other facilities. No imports are being allowed in case of cereals like wheat and rice in which area Indian Agricultural Research is fairly advanced.

(d) A high level Review Committee in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation will monitor the progress of the implementation action of the policy. The likely outgo of foreign exchange cannot be estimated at this stage.

New reserve of precious metal traced by Geological Survey of India

368. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a massive reserve of gold ore, chromite, coal and precious metal ore has recently been found during investigation by Geological Survey of India in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India through recent regional exploration has assessed reserves of coal, chromite and gold ore besides other mineral commodities in different parts of the country. The reserves assessed in Million Tonnes (State-wise) for coal, chromite and gold ore are:

Coal	
Andhra Pradesh	590.85
Meghalaya/Assam	0.322
Bihar	2098.35
Madhya Pradesh	3179.23
Orrissa	4817.39
West Bengal	1438.73
Chromita	
Orissa	8.75
Gold Ore	
Karnataka	2.6
Andhra Pradesh	4.18